

*Whitehall*

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH  
RECEIVED  
22 JUL 1939

NANTYGLO AND BLAINA  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORT  
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
— OF HEALTH —  
FOR THE YEAR 1938

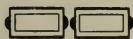


BRYNMAWR :  
DOVER & Co., PRINTERS.

1939

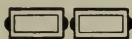


NANTYGLO AND BLAINA  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORT  
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
——— OF HEALTH ———

FOR THE YEAR 1938



BRYNMAWR :  
DOVER & Co., PRINTERS.

# SECTION A.

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1938.

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of District	...	...	...	3,862 Acres.
Registrar General's estimate of population	...	...	...	11,590
(mid 1938).				
Number of inhabited houses end of 1938, according to	...	...	...	...
rate books	...	...	...	3,052
Number of Families	...	...	...	3,326
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...

### Vital Statistics.

Number of Births	...	...	...	167
Legitimate Births	...	...	Male 100 ; Female	61
Illegitimate Births	...	...	„ 1 ; „	5
Birth rate per 1,000	...	...	...	14.4
General Birth Rate of Monmouthshire County	...	...	...	16.1
General Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	15.1
Number of Still Births	...	...	...	13
Legitimate	...	...	Male 7 ; Female	6
Illegitimate	...	...	Male 0 ; Female	0
Rate of Still Births per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	1.12
	...	...	Monmouth County...	0.92
	...	...	England & Wales	0.60
Rate of Still births per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	77.8
Number of Deaths	...	177	Male 107 ; Female	70
Death Rate per 1,000	...	...	...	15.2
Death Rate of Monmouth County	...	...	...	12.1
Death Rate of England & Wales	...	...	...	11.6

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis 0 ; Other Puerperal Causes 2 ; Total 2	...	...	...
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	...	...	11.1

## Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

Total Number of Deaths under 1 year	...	...	...	17
Death Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	101·8
Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births...	...	...	...	99·3
Number of Illegitimate Deaths	...	...	...	1
Death Rate per 1,000 Births—Monmouth County	...	...	...	55·8
England & Wales	...	...	...	53·0
Deaths from Cancer—All Ages	...	...	...	13
Deaths from Measles—All Ages	...	...	...	None
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	None
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	2

## Infantile Mortality.

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
No. of deaths	17	9	12	11	24	18	20	16	11	19
No. of births	167	164	182	196	202	202	233	249	194	218
Infantile mortality rate	101·8	55·5	65·9	56·1	118·8	89·1	85·8	64·2	56·6	87·1

## Particulars of Deaths of Children under 1 year.

under 1 wk.	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total
4	4	3	0	2	2	0	2	17

Total Number of Births	...	...	...	...	167
Total Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	17
Death Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	101·8
Death Rate per 1,000 Births Mon. County	...	...	...	...	55·8
Death Rate per 1,000 Births England & Wales	...	...	...	...	53·0

## Social Conditions.

The district is situated at the Northern end of the County of Monmouth, and is bounded on the West by the Ebbw Vale Urban District, and the North by the Brynmawr Urban District, on the South by the Abertillery Urban District. Coal mining is the only industry, except for a minor industry a Foundry for Light Malleable Castings.

There is no improvement to the conditions of unemployment in the area. About 1,450 men residing in the Urban Area are still unemployed exclusive of those over 65 years of age.



## SECTION B.

### **i. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

The Public Health Staff engaged by the Council are myself as Medical Officer of Health (part time) and a whole time Sanitary Inspector who holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

One half of the Salaries are paid by the County Council.

### **ii. (a). Laboratory Facilities.**

Facilities are provided by the County Authority for the examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens water, milk and food stuffs.

### **(b). Ambulance Facilities.**

The Public Health Authority has no Ambulance Facilities.

The only ambulance of the district is the property of the Nantyglo and Blaina General Hospital Board.

### **(c). Nursing in the Home.**

There are three midwives practising in the area appointed by the Monmouthshire County Council under the Midwives Act, 1936.

There is a District Nursing Association at Blaina affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

A Nurse attached to the Institute is employed by the Association.

There is a similar District Nursing Association at Nantyglo, affiliated to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association. The expenses of maintenance of the Nurse and necessary equipment is met by voluntary contributions.

## Hospitals.

There are no hospitals administered by the Local Authority.

Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and all other infectious diseases are treated in the home with exception of Typhoid Fever, Small Pox, and Cerebro-Spinal Fever. These latter infectious diseases are treated by an arrangement with neighbouring Isolation Hospitals.

There are a certain number of beds available at the Public Assistance Institute, Ty Bryn, Tredegar.



## SECTION C.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### *Water Supply.*

The water is good and the supply is now satisfactory.

Samples were submitted to the County Pathologist for bacteriological and chemical examination in May and August.

Both reports were satisfactory.

#### *Drainage and Sewerage.*

Drainage and Sewerage is on the Water Carriage System.

The subsidiary sewers are connected up with the Western Valley (Mon.) Main Trunk Sewer which discharges into the Sea at low water west of the mouth of the Usk.

New Sewers, which were badly needed, have been laid by the Council to serve the following areas :—

Llwydcoed at a cost of £692.

Coalbrook Vale at a cost of £695.

Forge site at a cost of £320.

and Club Row at a cost of £1,337.

#### *Rivers and Streams.*

There is considerable improvement in the pollution of the river since certain portions have been covered in.

It would be a great advantage if the river were covered in with whole lengths particularly at Farm Road and Felin Fwg.

#### *Closet Accommodation.*

There were no conversions from conservancy system during the year.

Of the 3,099 houses in our district 450 are fitted with flush tanks the remainder are hand flushed.



### *Tents, Vans and Sheds.*

For the first time for many years we have been able to clear the gypsies from the Church Field, Nantyglo, where they have always been a source of Nuisance.

### *Public Cleansing.*

This is a matter which gives us a good deal of trouble.

At present collections are made on alternate days.

This would be satisfactory if we had the co-operation of the householders.

During this year once again every householder has been served with a notice asking for their assistance and co-operation.

Personal visits have been made in more than a hundred cases but the dumping of refuse in unauthorised places still continues.

### *Cleanliness in the House.*

A special inspection of the Council Houses was made in this connection.

Each tenant was personally interviewed. A letter was left at each house pointing out matters which needed special attention.

Warnings were given that failure to maintain a reasonable state of cleanliness would be considered as sufficient grounds for the removal of the offending tenant.

### *iii. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

The Sanitary Conditions and Water Supply of the Elementary and Secondary Schools are satisfactory.

No Rag flock is sold or made in the area.

The Marine Stores are inspected periodically.

No action has been found necessary during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to Ventilation, Temperature of Shops and Sanitary Convenience.

### *Swimming Baths and Pools.*

There are no public or privately owned Swimming Baths in the district.

The children travel to neighbouring towns or make use of the local ponds which have been proved by bacteriological examination to be contaminated and to be quite unfit to be used as Swimming Pools.



## SECTION D. HOUSING.

### 1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.*

(1) (a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts)	...	500
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	500
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	...	500
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	500
(3)	Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation		150
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (inclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	none

### 2. *Remedy of defects during the year without services of Formal Notices—*

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	30
--	---	-----	----

### 3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year—*

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	38
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	...	12
(a)	By Owners	... ..	12
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	0

### (b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	46
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices		
(a)	By Owners	... ..	25
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	none

(c)—*Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	47
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	17

(d)—*Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	25
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	7

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.*

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	182
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein			...	...	220
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein			...	...	929
(b)		Number of New Cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	none
(c)	(i)	Number of Cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	none
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases				...	none
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.					none

### Slum Clearance.

Following the inquiry held in September, 1937, the Ministry of Health issued the Order confirming the Council's Clearance Orders relating to 30 houses in :—

1. Coalbrook Vale.
2. Croesyceilog.
3. Palmer's Row and Lamb Row.

These confirmation Orders are dated January 10th, 1938.

It was not until August that we were able to commence rehousing and the last tenant was not moved in until December.

In addition to the above, 54 individual houses have been dealt with, and notices were served, stating the time, and place, where matters relating to the making of a demolition order in respect of these houses would be considered.

In some instances the owners attended and in eight cases, undertakings were accepted, that the houses would be rendered fit.

In 6 cases the work has been carried out and the undertakings cancelled.

In the remainder nothing has been done and the houses will be demolished as re-housing accommodation is provided.

The actual rehousing that has taken place up to the end of the year is :—

From Clearance Areas	...	24 houses	104 occupants
From Individual Houses	...	28     ,,	139     ,,
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	52	243     ,,

Six houses in the clearance areas are still in occupation. The reason is that they are occupied by single persons and it was decided to deal first with large families from individual houses. Further work has been carried out in connection with Slum Clearance and details of 150 houses taken in Humphrey Hughes Houses, Lion's Row, Wesley Buildings, Waen Ebbw Road, Forge Row, Market Road, Black Rank, Cwmcelyn, Globe Pit Row, Shop Row, Clock Row, and Abertillery Road. The actual houses to be taken must be decided later, when the provision of the new houses required for these areas has been settled.



### Overcrowding.

No application has yet been made by the Council to relieve the serious overcrowding which exists in parts of the district.

I am constantly receiving letters imploring me to find some better accommodation for families, in some cases the conditions, having become even worse, as a result of ill health of some members of the family, but I am quite helpless, as we have nothing to offer.

The attention of every land lord was called by special notice to the fact that under Section 62 all rent books should contain particulars as to the "permitted number" for each house.

Not more than half the house owners have made application for this information.

# SECTION E.

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

### *Milk Supply.*

54 samples of Milk were taken for bacteriological examination during the year.

Quite a large proportion of the first samples taken in July were unsatisfactory.

Copies of the report were supplied to each Purveyor and a warning given that improvement must take place immediately.

The second samples taken in September showed substantial improvement.

In addition 9 samples of milk as supplied to the school children were taken.

In one instance it was not satisfactory.

Acting on our suggestion this supply was discontinued.

The quantity of milk supplied daily is as follows :

Brought in by train lorry or cart.

Pasteurised	...	178	gallons
Accredited	...	11	"
Raw milk	...	116	"
From local farms :			
Raw milk	...	31	"
Making a total of	...	336	" daily.

The local farms are not really suitable as Dairy Farms.

Generally they are old fashioned premises. In some cases the Cow sheds adjoin the living apartments.

The floors have been somewhat improved but the surrounding yards are very rough and are not properly drained. Lighting and ventilation in the cow houses is poor.

The farms on the whole are not kept clean.

### *Meat and Other Foods.*

Regular visits are paid to the slaughter houses in the district.

The number of animals killed for human consumption by local butchers are :—

Beasts 346 Calves 282 Sheep 2668 Pigs 764.

In addition there are a number of Meat Sellers in our area who obtain their supply from outside the district.

Regarding the slaughtering of animals by private persons we are endeavouring to complete a register of these cottagers. Whilst realising that we cannot compel them to do so, we are trying to get them to agree that the slaughtering be done at one of the registered slaughter houses. Some have already commenced carrying out this suggestion, and we are hopeful that all will agree to do the same.

The amount of meat destroyed during the year was :—

Beef 1162 lbs. Pigs head and liver 47 lbs. making a total of 1209 pounds.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	...	346	282	2668	764
Number inspected ...	...	...	...	...	...
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned ...	...	592lbs.	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	...	97lbs.	...	29lbs.	...
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis .	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis only— Whole carcases condemned	...	560lbs.	...	...	68lbs.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	144lbs.	...	...	4lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...

### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

The scarlet incidences is still less this year, 31 cases having been notified, whereas in 1937 there were 44 ; 1936, 44, and 1935, 195.

There have been ten cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever during the year, five of which died.

These patients were treated at a neighbouring hospital at a cost of approximately £3 per week exclusive of the serum used.

## Analysis of Infectious Diseases according to Districts and Wards.

DISEASE		DISTRICTS			WARDS.			TOTALS
		Nantyglo	Blaina	Total	North	Central	South	
Pneumonia	...	7	8	15	7	1	7	15
Diphtheria	...	9	2	11	8	3	0	11
Scarlet Fever	...	15	16	31	11	15	5	31
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	4	6	10	4	3	3	10
Tuberculosis	Pulmonary	4	10	14	4	5	5	14
	Non-Pulmonary	3	0	3	1	1	0	2
		42	42	84	35	28	20	83



The following is an Analysis of the Total Cases of Infectious Diseases.

DISEASE	CASES													DEATHS													Number admitted to Hospital	
	under 1 yr.	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over	Total	Under 1 yr.	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over	Total		
Pneumonia	3	1	2	...	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	15	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	6	10
Scarlet Fever	...	1	3	5	1	11	5	3	2	...	...	...	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	1	1	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	2	...	3	1	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	2	3	...	...	5	
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	4	4	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	1	...	...	7	
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
	4	1	4	7	1	23	11	9	9	7	7	1	84	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	4	5	4	4	22		



## Deaths from All Causes.

DISEASE.		Under 1 yr.	1—2 years.	2—3 years.	3—4 years.	4—5 years.	5—10 years.	10—15 yrs.	15—20 yrs.	20—35 yrs.	35—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	65 and over	Male.	Female.	Total.
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	1	3	5	5
Tuberculosis Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	1	2	...	7
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	8	9	...	13
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	2	3	5
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	6	5	4	9
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	23	45	50	22	72
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	2	4	6
Pneumonia	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	4	...	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	4	2	6
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
Other Digestal Diseases	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	2	1	3
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	1
Congenital Debility (Premature Births, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Senility	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	5	11
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	2
Other defined Diseases	...	2	3	1	1	...	1	...	2	1	2	...	5	7	13	20
Total	...	17	3	1	1	...	3	2	3	5	16	45	81	107	70	177

# TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
25	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
35	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
45	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
55	..	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS			10	6	1	...	1	5	1	...

There was no deaths during the year of unnotified cases.

The notification of new cases is satisfactory.

I wish to express my thanks to the Members of the Council, your Clerk, Mr. Jenkins, your Sanitary Inspector, and Financial Officer, for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

FLORENCE M. WALLEN-GUNN.





